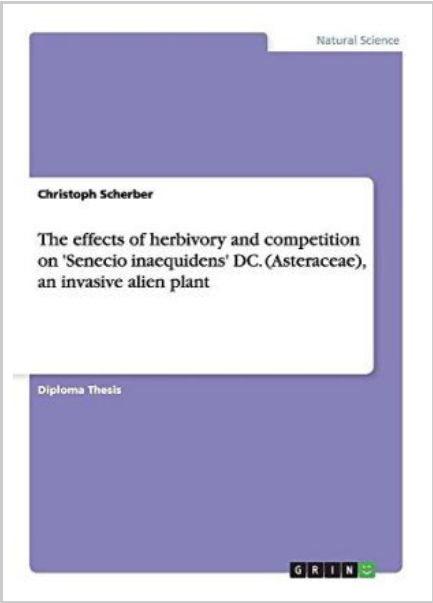

The Effects of Herbivory and Competition on Senecio Inaequidens DC. (Asteraceae), an Invasive Alien Plant

By Christoph Scherber

Grin Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 108 pages. Dimensions: 8.1in. x 5.6in. x 0.5in.Diploma Thesis from the year 2002 in the subject Biology - Ecology, grade: 1, 0 (A), University of Rostock (Institute for Botany), 120 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Since the end of the 19th century, overall per-capita mobility of humans has increased significantly, leading to increased rates in human-mediated transportation of animal and plant species. The rapid spread of alien organisms, however, may lead to quick and unpredictable changes in ecosystems. Senecio inaequidens DC. (Asteraceae) is an invasive alien plant from South Africa that was first introduced to Europe 100 years ago and is characterized by an exceptionally fast rate of spread; it contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that are toxic to invertebrates, livestock and humans. In the study presented here, laboratory, greenhouse and field experiments on the biology of Senecio inaequidens were conducted, in order to find out if and how herbivory and plant competition influence growth, survival and reproduction of this plant. Specifically, the presence of vertebrate herbivores, molluscs, insects and plant competitors was experimentally manipulated using full factorial and split-plot designs. All experiments were performed at Imperial College, Silwood Park, about 30 km...

Reviews

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